

# social hygiene news



AMERICAN SOCIAL HYGIENE ASSOCIATION

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## ASHA Chief to Chair Mather Elected Health Council Treasurer Pilot Project Group

Conrad Van Hyning, executive director of the American Social Hygiene Association will be chairman of the Utica Pilot Project Committee when the National Conference of Social Work meets in St. Louis this month.

The Utica Pilot Project represents the first organized effort at getting national agencies as a group to look carefully at their services to a local community, Mr. Van Hyning said.

A report of the study, which was made in Utica, New York, will be presented to the committee by study director Wibur Maxwell.

"We expect the Utica project to increase the understanding of local communities about the role of national agencies, and to alert the nationals to find new and better ways of providing services," Mr. Van Hyning said.

Mr. Van Hyning is chairman of the Quota and Support Committee of the National Social Welfare Assembly which together with the New York State Association of Community Chests and Councils sponsored the Utica project.



Philip R. Mather, president of the American Social Hygiene Association, was elected to his seventh term as treasurer of the National Health Council at its 36th annual meeting in New York City, in March. Mr. Mather (left) is shown here with Philip E. Ryan, executive director of NHC, and Mrs. Ryan at the dinner which closed the two-day 1956 National Health Forum on "Action Today, Tomorrow, Together on Chronic Illness." The Council conducts the forum each year in behalf of its organization members, now 50 in number, including ASHA.

## Michigan Reports VD Problem Increasing

The Michigan state health department recently pointed to a growing problem in venereal disease, reporting that Michigan had 4,858 new cases of syphilis in fiscal 1955—a four percent increase over 1954—and 9,710 new cases of gonorrhea, up slightly over the 1954 total.

Dr. John Cowan, health department specialist, said that while many cases of syphilis reported today are "old cases" which failed to come to light in previous years, "we're fearful that a fairly large number of persons with early infectious syphilis are not receiv-

ing adequate penicillin treatment."

Dr. Cowan said venereal disease among teen-agers still poses a serious problem. He reported that 16 percent of the acute cases last year were in the 15 to 19 year old age group.

"As I hope most families and communities realize," he said, "the best ways to safeguard young people from these diseases are offered through education and through opportunities for good times in good company."

"While it's true that early discovery and prompt treatment of venereal disease is important, the more basic job in prevention must be done in the family circle, the school, the church and the community."

## New Representative Named to ASHA Post

Clayton Jones, American Social Hygiene Association adult education consultant since 1954, has been named to the post of ASHA regional representative for New York, New Jersey and New England, it is announced by Conrad Van Hyning, ASHA executive director.

Prior to joining ASHA's staff, Mr. Jones was program consultant for the International Exchange Project of the National Social Welfare Assembly.

He has also been chief of the project services section, Federal Public Hous-

(Continued on page 3)

## **Family Life Lines**

### **Minnesota**

Paul Hanson, Little Falls superintendent of Schools, spoke at the 42nd annual Schoolmen's Week at the University of Minnesota about how to strengthen family life education through our schools. Mr. Hanson is coordinator of ASHA's Midwest Regional In-service Project for teachers.

### **Iowa**

Dean Harlan L. Hagman of Drake University's College of Education plans a spring course on personal and family living for teachers and graduate students.

### **New York**

Said H. Harry Giles, director of New York University's Center for Human Relations Studies about ASHA's publications, "Strengthening Family Life Education in Our Schools" and "Education for Personal and Family Living": "I am much impressed by the purpose and thoroughness of the material. So much of what is set down is in accord with the evidence from research and my own personal experience. I am enthusiastic."

### **North Dakota**

The North Dakota State College holds a two-week workshop on family life education in July.

### **Vermont**

Clayton Jones and Charles Messner of ASHA were consultants to the Committee on Education for Personal and Family Living of the Vermont Council on Higher Education, which met at the University of Vermont in Burlington, last month.

### **South Dakota**

President Warren Lovinger of Northern State Teachers College, Aberdeen announces plans for a series of ASHA conferences with all county superintendents of the state to blueprint pre-school institutes for teachers.

## **Divorce Predicted for 32 Million Couples**

Unless current trends are reversed, approximately 32 million husbands and wives now living together in the United States will be divorced, according to Dr. David R. Mace, in a recent issue of the "Women's Home Companion."

"Today's fluid, shifting responsibilities between the sexes are bringing confusion and conflict into many marriages," Dr. Mace said.

"Despite all its advantages, an unexpected result of the democratic marriage is that today neither wives nor husbands know exactly how the duties of home management, family finances and child rearing are to be divided," he pointed out.

## **University Offers Human Relations Course**

The Seventh Institute on Human Relations and Intergroup Understanding will be offered by the American University, Washington, D. C., from June 18 to July 9, 1956.

Designed to acquaint students with economic and human costs of intergroup antagonisms, the Institute aims to broaden understanding of the causes of intergroup tensions and to develop knowledge of the resources and methods available for the improvement of intergroup relations.

Advisors to the institute include G. Bromley Oxnam, Bishop of the Methodist Church, the Washington area, John J. O'Connor, president Catholic Inter-racial Council of Washington, D. C., and Leonard P. Aries, director, Washington region, National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Three hours graduate or advanced undergraduate credit will be granted for successful completion of Institute work.

Credits will apply to undergraduate or graduate degree requirements in psychology, sociology or education.

All requests for applications should be addressed to Charles K. Trueblood, The American University, 1901 F. St., N.W., Washington 6, D. C., before June 1, 1956.

## **Ohio Holds Meeting**

The role of home and school in social hygiene highlighted a special district conference of the Ohio Council of Social Hygiene held last month in Portsmouth to mark Social Hygiene Day.

Earl O. Wright, president of the Ohio Council of Social Hygiene presided at the meeting at which the Scioto County Social Hygiene Association was host.

Speakers and panel members included Walter Hughes, chief, Venereal Disease Section, Ohio State Department of Health, and William Page, venereal disease representative, Chicago Regional Office, United States Department of Health and Welfare.

Others participating in the program were Tom Edwards, field representative, American Social Hygiene Association and Martha Lauman, public health nurse.

The meeting was climaxed with a showing of the "Invader," prize-winning documentary film on the history of syphilis through the ages, produced by the Center for Mass Communication of Columbia University Press.

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## **Panel Discusses VD at 1st International Meeting**

What non-governmental organizations can do to control venereal disease throughout the world will be discussed by a distinguished panel at the First International Symposium on Venereal Disease and the Treponematoses to be held in Washington, D. C., May 28 through June 1.

Among the participants expected to attend will be E. H. Hermans of Holland, president of the International Union Against Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses, and Dr. Thorstein Guthe of the World Health Organization.

Over 81 representatives from 37 countries have accepted invitations to attend the symposium.

Others scheduled to present papers and participate in the NGO panel include Dr. Evan Thomas, president, The American Venereal Disease Association; Conrad Van Hyning, executive director of the American Social Hygiene Association, and Josephine V. Tuller, director of the International Union Against the Venereal Diseases and the Treponematoses Regional Office for the Americas.

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1790 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.  
Philip R. Mather - - - President  
Conrad Van Hyning - Executive Director  
Andrea Smargon - - - Editor

## Emphasize Dad's Part In Children's Schooling

How fathers can best help their children in family life education was the theme of a community wide Social Hygiene Day luncheon meeting organized last month by the Joint Social Hygiene Committee of Cleveland.

The meeting was sponsored by six community agencies and all forty of the Kiwanis clubs in Greater Cleveland.

Included among the sponsoring organizations were the Cleveland Council of Parent-Teachers Associations, the Cleveland Division of Health, the Cleveland Health Museum, Cleveland Mental Health Association, and the Family Health Association of Cleveland.

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## Family Life Sourcebook Published By Stanford

A comprehensive reference guide to research in family life education over the past decade will be published this month by Stanford University Press and is available at special discount price to readers of *Social Hygiene News*.

Entitled *Family Life Sourcebook*, the 380-page manual was sponsored by the American Social Hygiene Association in response to the growing need for new information and solutions for better education in family living.

Designed for educators, public health personnel, social workers, magistrates and other professional and civic leaders, the sourcebook was edited and compiled by Dr. Oliver E. Byrd, professor of education, Stanford University.

The manual contains abstracts of some 400 articles drawn from professional publications representing major disciplines which are developing new insights in family life education.

To: **Stanford University Press**  
Stanford, California

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ copies of **FAMILY LIFE SOURCEBOOK** at the special price of \$5.50 per copy as offered to readers of *Social Hygiene News*.

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## Happy Family Living Best Insurance Against VD Problem, Mental Health Nurse Says

The best insurance against venereal disease is to build good family relationships.

This statement was made in a magazine article by mental health nurse consultant Geraldine Busse, of the Division of Public Health Nursing, Iowa State Department of Health.

Writing in "Nursing Outlook's" April issue she recommends education for personal and family living as an effective counter measure against the VD public health problem.

"Venereal disease is often an indicator of deeper emotional problems," she declares. "People who have promiscuous sexual relations are rebelling against parental and social rules."

She points out that promiscuity is evidence of a desperate search for love and affection denied in childhood.

In reporting on studies done in several venereal disease clinics, Miss Busse reveals that the majority of clinic patients were products of broken homes or homes torn with conflict between the parents.

Of married women patients in one clinic, 52 percent came from broken homes, and 50 percent were either divorced or separated. All had married early primarily to escape intolerable conditions at home.

"Family disorganization and family instability play a key role in sexual promiscuity," Miss Busse states. "We must offer guidance so that children will grow up having proper respect for themselves as persons."



William J. Petrus

DIRECTING OPERATIONS for the American Social Hygiene Association's new midwestern headquarters at 123 West Madison Street, Chicago, is William J. Petrus. Mr. Petrus will be regional representative for ASHA in a thirteen-state area.

Publications represented in the book include: "The American Sociology Review," the "American Journal of Psychiatry," and the "Journal of Educational Sociology."

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## Syphilis Takes Toll of Elderly

A sharp increase in death rates among the elderly in Maryland last year is noted by the Maryland Department of Health.

Mortality from syphilis rose about 89 percent during the year although the total number of deaths involved were small.

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## NEW REPRESENTATIVE

(Continued from page 1)

ing Authority, Washington, D. C., was state supervisor of community activities for the Connecticut Department of Education, and served as chief of the Community Activities Branch, Office of the U. S. High Commissioner in Germany.

MAY, 1956

AP

Mr. Eugene B. Power  
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